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Identical letters dated 9 July 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to state that on 1 June 2000 a five-man Kuwaiti naval patrol attacked craft No. 235/Basrah, belonging to Mr. Abd al-Mahdi Shuhayb Ahmad, while it was fishing near buoy 13 inside Iraqi territorial waters. The patrol confiscated the customs carnet and the fishing documents of the crew, and a number of rounds were fired in the direction of the wheelhouse.

The action of the Kuwaiti authorities in entering our territorial waters to assault Iraqi fishermen there is a manifest breach of Iraq's sovereignty and integrity and an act of armed aggression that, by the most elementary standards governing relations between States, constitutes a flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and of all the principles of international law and prevailing international conventions that reject the threat or use of force against the integrity and independence of any country. We protest against the hostile conduct of the Kuwaiti authorities, and we urge you to intervene in order to prevent these violations, namely entry into Iraq's territorial waters and the perpetration of such acts of provocation. The Government of the Republic of Iraq reserves in full the inalienable right accorded to it by the Charter of the United Nations, the principles of international law and international conventions to take whatever measures are necessary to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity and, in accordance with the principle of international responsibility, to seek compensation for the material and other damage done to it by these acts of aggression.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Saeed H. **Hasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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